GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:244
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
REDUCTION OF DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Plan document contained detailed proposal on prevention of crime through effective strategies, evolving various programmes of socio-economic relevance to safeguard the interests of women, girls, children and street children;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government on the said document to safeguard the interests of the aforesaid categories; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for a nationwide reduction of alcoholism and drug abuse and prevent the flow of drugs in the country and make punishment more stringent for people involved in trafficking of drugs?

Answer

MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 244 FOR 18TH DECEMBER, 2003

The Tenth Plan document do not specifically strategise `prevention of crime` to safeguard the interests of women, girls, children and street children, but it has been stated therein that `awareness generation and preventive education programmes will be conducted among the potential risk groups/centres such as schools, colleges, sex workers, street children, occupational groups etc. to educate them regarding the most dangerous effects of addiction.` Further it states that `realising the increasing correlation between crime and drug abuse, the treatment and rehabilitation facilities in correctional institutions and prisons will also be strengthened.` The Tenth Plan, therefore, envisages `utilisation of expertise of the existing institutional mechanism viz Counselling Centres to identify vulnerable and high-risk groups such as street children, transport workers, sex-workers etc, and ensure that they do not fall prey to drug addiction.` Accordingly following steps have been taken:

? A Pilot programme in 100 Drug Treatment-Cum-Rehabilitation Centres for prevention of HIV/AIDS amongst the addicts and their family members;
? Sensitising Sex-workers on risk and protection factors relating to drug abuse and safe sex;
? Family Counselling Centres for sensitising the family members of an addict on various risk factors and preventive measures;
? Establishing Self-Help Groups of dependent female members of the family of an addict and providing them with support for economic rehabilitation;
? Workplace Prevention Programmes for preventing addiction in work places with an objective of ensuring economic security of the family;
? Drop-in Centres to support information dissemination and rehabilitation of addicts;
? Developing awareness on networking and convergence with the programmes for socio-economic rehabilitation of women and children dependents of addicts through the programmes of other Ministries and Departments of the Govt. of India; An inventory of programmes has been developed containing details of such Schemes and programmes;

Recognising alcoholism and drug abuse as a psycho-socio-medical problem requiring community based interventions, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing anationwide programme through the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse wherein Non-Government Organisations are being provided with financial support, for institutionalas well as community based programmes, for awareness, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of the addicts. Presently around 350 NGOs are being provided with financial support under the Scheme fornearly 450 programmes all over the country. An allocation of Rs.140.30 crores has been made for the programme during the Tenth Plan.

The Tenth Plan envisages an integrated approach to supply and demand reduction for curbing the growing problems of alcoholism and drug abuse in the country. Government of India has taken a number of steps to combat drug trafficking in the country and make punishment more stringent. These include:

? Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land borders, airports, foreign post offices etc.
? Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes
? Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction;
? Identification of illicit cultivation of the opium poppy and the wild growth of cannabis and eradication of these sources of supply;
? Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence;
? increased international cooperation for exchanges of information and investigative assistance in administering controls over the movement of precursor chemicals;
? Building of an electronic data base of offenders and suspects;
? Targeting illicit manufacturing units of brown sugar and methaqualone;
? Passenger profiting for identification of members of trafficking groups;
? Using satellite imaging techniques for mapping of opium cultivation so as to strengthen ontrols over areas where licit opium cultivation is permitted;
? Conducting training programmes for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking;
? Implementing a scheme of monetary rewards for information leading to seizures of Narcotics drugs to informants and officers;
? Bilateral agreement with a number of countries including Pakistan and Myanmar; and
? Setting up of special courts for speedy disposal under NDPS Act

The Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, amended in 1999 and 2001 broughtabout significant changes in the penal structure under the Act. These have made financial investigation and forfeiture of illegally acquired property more purposeful. In addition, provision for new investigation techniques and removing certain practical difficulties faced by the investigation officers have been introduced.